



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tawan Fields
Durham Housing Authority
Phone: 919-257-0103
Email: tfields@dha-nc.org

Durham Housing Authority Announces Re-Naming of Oldham Towers

Board Approves Renaming of Downtown Durham High Rise Structure to “519 E. Main Street”

[DURHAM, NC – July 2, 2020] – Anthony Scott, CEO of Durham Housing Authority (DHA) announced that the Agency will be renaming its property, Oldham Towers to “519 East Main Street”. Mr. Scott stated that in June of 2019, the Chair of DHA Board of Commissioners, Daniel Hudgins, appointed a subcommittee to review the renaming of Oldham Towers which was named for Carvie S. Oldham, Sr., the Executive Director of Durham Housing Authority in the 50’s and 60’s.

Former Commissioner, “Brother” Ray Eurquhart, was named chair of the subcommittee. Unfortunately, “Brother Ray” died earlier this year without being able to complete this work. The subcommittee has continued its work since Brother Ray’s passing. The subcommittee presented a resolution to the Board of Commissioners at its June 24, 2020 meeting proposing the name change. The unanimously approved resolution formerly strips the name from the building. The building will be known by its street address, “519 Main Street” until such time as the Board of Commissioners renames the development.

Oldham was a controversial figure during his tenure at the DHA. Among his policies was a failure to recognize due process rights regarding evictions and pursuing segregated placement of new public housing communities. Mr. Scott stated that the name “Oldham Towers” was removed from the building today.

Located in downtown Durham, 519 E. Main Street was completed in 1969 as DHA’s first high rise structure. This community provides 106 apartments to low income residents. For the full resolution and the report, please go to the DHA website at <http://www.durhamhousingauthority.org/about-dha/press-room/2020/265/>.